

CASA CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

CASA of Hancock County throws party for children in foster care. **2A**



HHS SPOTLIGHT STUDENTS

Students recognized for greatness. **1B**

The Sea Coast Echo

WEDNESDAY

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1892

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TWO SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

\$1

Bay celebrates 200th 'Birthday'



Echo staff photos by Geoff Belcher

The Hancock County Historical Society and city of Bay St. Louis on Saturday celebrated the Bicentennial of the city's incorporation as the city of Shieldsborough. Pictured are, from left: Mayor Mike Favre; former Mayor Eddie Favre; former Mayor Larry Bennett; Rear Adm. John A. Okon; Dr. James Keating; Beverly Frater; Joe Piernas; Connie Roth; Chris Roth; Rev. Ted Dawson; and Ron Thorp.



Dr. James Keating portrays 1818 Mayor Benjamin Sones.



Beverly Frater portrays Louise Crawford, who founded library.



Ron Thorp portrays War of 1812 hero, Thomas Shields.

BY GEOFF BELCHER
NEWS EDITOR

Heavy rain moved the festivities inside on Saturday, but it didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm when the Hancock County Historical Society and the city of Bay St. Louis celebrated the Bicentennial of the city's original incorporation.

"We had a fantastic turn-out, considering the weather," Bicentennial Committee Director Chris Roth said. "I think it



Rev. Ted Dawson as Mississippi Gov. David Holmes.

turned out great."

The first act of Mississippi's first state legislature in 1818 was to approve the incorporation of the city as Shieldsborough, in honor of War of 1812 veteran Thomas Shields.

To commemorate the occasion, Roth, his wife Connie, Dr. James Keating and several other volunteers dressed as real people from Bay St. Louis' colorful past to speak in character about their lives.

Among the "characters" represented were:

- Shields, portrayed by Ron Thorp;
- Gov. David Holmes, who was in office when Shieldsborough was incor-



Joe Piernas speaks about his great-great Uncle Louis Piernas.

porated, portrayed by Rev. Ted Dawson;

- Modena Weston, a Civil War combat nurse, played by Connie Roth;
- Louis J. Piernas, the city's long-time postmaster and public servant, portrayed by his real-life great-great grand nephew Joe Piernas;
- Benjamin Sones, mayor of the city when its name was changed to Bay St. Louis in 1875, portrayed by Dr. Jim Keating;
- Father Matthew Christmann, founder of St. Augustine Seminary, portrayed by Roth;
- Louise Crawford, founding member of the

• See 200/Page 5A



Hancock Chamber Exec. Director Tish Williams, Chris Roth and Connie Roth.

PRAYERS FOR JULIA

Local family receives outpouring of support after teen hurt in hit-and-run

BY CASSANDRA FAVRE
STAFF WRITER

Family members describe 14-year-old Julia Usprich as a sweet and compassionate girl.

Julia is currently fighting for her life at USA Children's and Women's Hospital in Mobile, Alabama after a hit-and-run in Pass Christian left her seriously injured.

Pass Christian Police Chief Tim Hendricks said the accident occurred at about 6 p.m. Friday at the Davis Avenue intersection. The driver of a white Toyota Corolla left the scene and headed east, he added.

After an investigation and interviews with witnesses, law enforcement officials with the Harrison County Sheriff's Office spotted the vehicle on Freddie Frank Road. Officials identified the suspect as David

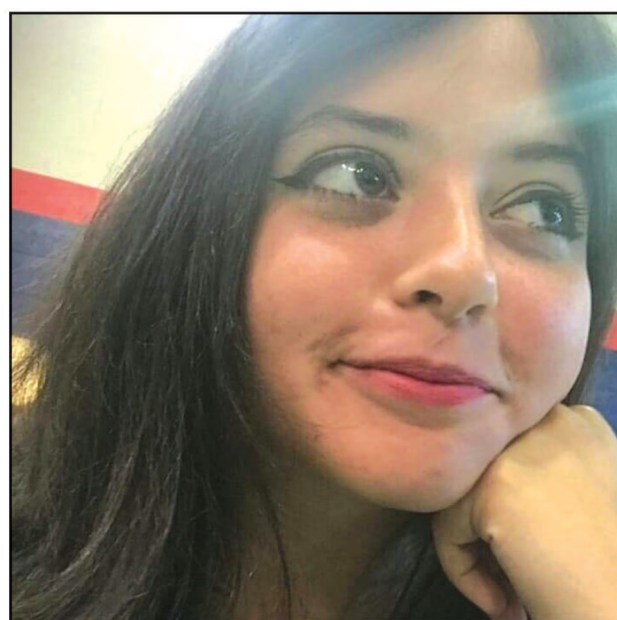


Photo submitted

14-year-old Julia Usprich is fighting for her life after injuries suffered in a hit-and-run accident.

Hernandez, a Honduran national, who is in the U.S. illegally.

Officials charged Hernandez with a felony count of leaving the scene of an accident causing serious injury. Judge Phillip Wittmann set a \$200,000 bond for

Hernandez and immigration officials will determine if Hernandez will stand trial in the U.S. or be deported back to Honduras after a full investigation, Hendricks said.

• See JULIA/Page 6A

A garden for the elders



Echo staff photo by Cassandra Favre

From left, Norma Davis and Trish Webb pose with the Foo dogs and Buddha statue that Webb recently donated to Dunbar Village's courtyard.

BY CASSANDRA FAVRE
STAFF WRITER

The elders at the Dunbar Village retirement community in Bay St. Louis are on a mission to beautify the facility's courtyard.

Resident Norma Davis is a member of Dunbar Village's council, made up entirely of elders.

"We started trying to beautify the courtyard about three or four months ago, but the weather got the best of us," Davis said.

Recently, Dunbar Village elder Trish Webb, a former flight attendant, donated two Foo dogs (Chinese dog statues) and an outside garden Buddha statue, Davis

• See GARDEN/Page 6A

Police identify pair sought after Waveland man's death

SEA COAST ECHO

Biloxi police have announced they have determined the identities of two people they were seeking for questioning in the death last week of a Waveland resident.

Brad Helsel, 48, died last week after trying to

break up a fight in the parking lot of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum.

Helsel had attended a concert last Monday featuring the bands Breaking Benjamin and Five Finger Death Punch with wife Angie, son Caleb and cousin Gary Simoneaux, authorities said. After the

concert, Helsel and another man, Kyle Quinn, tried to break up a fight and Helsel was struck during the melee.

He was transported to a Gulfport hospital, where he later died of his injuries.

Harrison County Coroner Gary Hargrove

• See PAIR/Page 6A

WEDNESDAY
Low: 2:58 AM
High: 4:35 PM

THURSDAY
Low: 3:41 AM
High: 5:42 PM

FRIDAY
Low: 4:23 AM
High: 6:52 PM

SATURDAY
Low: 11:04 AM
High: 8:01 PM

SUNDAY
Low: 5:44 AM
High: 9:08 PM

MONDAY
Low: 6:22 AM
High: 10:15 PM

TUESDAY
Low: 6:55 AM
High: 11:27 PM



Call us at The Sea Coast Echo, (228) 467-5474 or go to www.seacoastecho.com

CASA of Hancock Christmas Party for Children

SEA COAST ECHO

This past Sunday, CASA of Hancock County hosted the annual Christmas party for the county's children in foster care.

The event also afforded an opportunity for CASA to partner with its local Youth Court as well as with Child Protective Services (CSPS) to ensure our children are taken care of this Christmas. The party was made possible by a host of sponsors and community members.

CASA would like to thank the 2018 sponsors: the Misfits Street Krewzers, Bill & Linda

Pilger of Burlington, Iowa, Hancock County Law Enforcement & Firefighters, Lutheran Church of the Pines, St. Thomas Episcopal, Diamondhead Community Church, Watters Architecture, the Silver Slipper, Domino's Pizza, Long Beach Rotary, Waterslides of the Coast, John McDonald Realty, Compton Engineering, S&L Office Supplies, Coke, Employees of Advantage Title, Employees of Sabic, Employees of Coast Electric, St. Clare Catholic Church and Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church and numerous individual donors who

adopted our children's wish lists and others who put in countless man hours wrapping and preparing for our event.

CASA of Hancock County is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that utilizes trained community members to advocate for children who through no fault of their own are involved in the complex and overburdened child welfare and youth court systems.



DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE!!!
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Echo staff photos by Geoff Belcher
CASA of Hancock County Executive Director Cynthia Chauvin and Hancock County Judge Trent Favre



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Arrest Record

Editor's note: The following is a list of arrests logged at the Hancock County Justice Facility from the past week. Appearance on the jail log is not indicative of guilt, merely a record that an arrest has been made.

STAFF REPORT
 Ada Louise Mangin, 58, cyberstalking
 Byron D. Brooks, 27, driving with suspended license; failure to stop for inspection station
 Karon Acker, 50, failure to yield to blue lights; reckless driving; speeding; no insurance
 Ty B. Ladner, 21, careless driving; controlled substance -- to sell, barter, transfer, manufacture, distribute, etc.; misdemeanor possession of controlled substance; possession of paraphernalia; weapon possession by felon; probation violation
 Rebecca M. Woodcock, 26, possession of paraphernalia; misdemeanor possession of controlled substance; hold for other agency
 Nicholas S. Schwartz, IV, 28, controlled substance -- to sell, barter, transfer, manufacture, distribute, etc.; possession of paraphernalia; hold for MDOC; misdemeanor possession of controlled substance; weapon possession by felon; contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Curvis C. Ladner, 37, felony possession of controlled substance; contempt of court -- failure to appear
 John A. Thomas, 35, DUI first; possession of marijuana; possession of paraphernalia
 Thomas E. Pitts, III, 35, contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Robert D. Gilbert, 31, weapon possession by felon; resisting/obstructing arrest; eluding law officer; felony possession of controlled substance; misdemeanor possession of controlled substance x 2; possession of paraphernalia
 Ishmael L. Wilmore, 40, simple assault -- domestic violence
 Marquetta L. Baymon, 32, contempt of court -- failure to appear

Jacob O. Russell, 28, simple assault -- domestic violence
 Christopher C. Johnson, 32, felony possession of controlled substance; possession of paraphernalia; misdemeanor possession of controlled substance
 Curt M. Goodin, 39, receiving stolen property; grand larceny
 Amber C. Harmon, 29, contempt of court -- failure to appear; possession of paraphernalia
 Joseph S. Weis, II, 23, contempt of court -- failure to appear x 3
 Robby L. Nichols, 24, trespassing; contempt of court -- failure to appear x 3
 Scott Matthew Hahn, 42, DUI first; eluding law officer; reckless driving
 Rachel P. Reilly, 27, grand larceny; felony possession of controlled substance
 Crystal M. Mizell, 39, hold for other agency
 Daniel C. Talley, 39, simple assault -- domestic violence; contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Robin R. Harrison, 47, simple assault
 Angela W. Green, 51, probation violation
 Zachary T. Kingston, 30, credit card -- fraudulent use with internet to obtain money, etc. x 4; misdemeanor possession of controlled substance; contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Richard A. Mauffray, 24, grand larceny; hold for other agency
 Robert M. Vorhoff-Christian, 23, misdemeanor possession of controlled substance; possession of paraphernalia
 Tori Ann J. Kierstead, 20, misdemeanor possession of controlled substance; possession of paraphernalia
 Lodge W. Ladner, 41, contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Deja Ann Chauvin, 18, contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Richard K. Mauffray, 42, contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Brian A. Carter, 41, disorderly conduct; vagrancy
 Ashley Parker, 28, back for court/court order; felony possession of controlled substance; tampering with physical evidence
 Torie P. Gray, 26, back for court
 Brandy L. Hosey, 30, contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Charles S. Parker, 39, back for court
 Bradley L. St. Pierre, 55, back for court
 Devin J. Schwartz, 19, back for court

Austin T. Schmelzer, 42, back for court
 Elmer C. Parsons, Jr., 59, contempt of court -- failure to appear; contempt of court -- failure to pay fine; contempt of court -- failure to pay fine
 Tiffany A. Seager, 47, DUI first
 Robert R. Fisher, 42, contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Brandy L. Stewart, 33, false identifying information; controlled substance -- felony possession
 Jacob A. Bingham, 24, DUI first
 Rita L. Debenport, 57, disorderly conduct; resisting/obstructing arrest
 Rache E. Genna, 50, contempt of court -- failure to appear; driving while license or driving privilege revoked; set belt violation
 failure of owner or perpetrator to maintain vehicle
 Patrick K. Walker, 30, driving while license cancelled; improper use of out-of-state tag or tag from another vehicle
 Johnathan A. Faucheux, 19, burglary of inhabited dwelling
 Delfred R. Lewis, Jr., felony possession of controlled substance; contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Dana N. Farrell, 36, simple assault on policeman or fireman or school official; trespassing
 Larry H. Simmons, III, 31, hold for other agency
 Thomas R. Lee, 58, possession of paraphernalia
 David W. Garrett, 41, controlled substance -- to sell, barter, transfer, etc.; possession of paraphernalia
 John P. Lumpkin, 45, contempt of court -- failure to appear; controlled of controlled substance; possession of paraphernalia
 Taye T> Dufrene, 18, burglary of a commercial building
 Robert B. Northridge, 25, simple assault
 James Hoyt, 31, hold for other agency
 Christopher L. Winkles, 21, burglary of a commercial building
 Tevin D. Parker, contempt of court -- failure to appear
 Derek L. Morales, 27, contempt of court -- failure to appear
 William J. Stockstill, 45, hold for other agency; grand larceny
 Damon J. Hosty, 32, eluding an officer; contempt of court -- failure to appear x 2
 Kristian P. Whitney, 4e, contempt of court; failure to appear

Hancock Youth Leadership Academy Graduates Sixth Class of High School Seniors



The 2018 HYL A graduating class includes from left to right: (front row) Kearsten Shaw (Hancock), Ahmia Khadaroo (Bay High), Harleigh LaFontaine (Hancock), Brenna Labyak (Bay High), Liam McKeon (Bay High), Alex Koons (Saint Stanislaus), Wallis Mortillaro (OLA), and Kennady Hertz (OLA). (Middle Row) Brianna Mitchell (Hancock), Shelbe McColley (Bay High), Kelanie Tennyson (Hancock), Hannah Pitalo (OLA), Katie Ingram (OLA), Maleah Austin (Hancock), Margaret Spencer White (OLA), and Savannah LaFontaine (Hancock). (Back row) Alexander Fuller (Saint Stanislaus), Charlie Whaley (Saint Stanislaus), Taylor Slade (OLA), Chase Rhodes (Saint Stanislaus), Charlie Luttrell (Bay High), Nate McCormick (Saint Stanislaus), Collin Ladner (Hancock), Zach Loftin (Bay High), and Luke Davis (Hancock).

SEA COAST ECHO

The Hancock Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA) held a graduation ceremony for its sixth class of high school seniors on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at the Hancock Performing Arts Center. Dr. Dolphus Weary, President of the R.E.A.L. Christian Foundation, was

the guest speaker. The graduation marks the end of a year-long program that the students began as juniors in high school. Over the course of the past year, HYLA students developed and sharpened leadership skills through training sessions that included such topics as how to affect change, civic engagement, career planning and budgeting, economic development

and entrepreneurship, college planning on an overnight "college cruise," community assets, and diversity, safety, and wellness on campus.

"This year's class was such a great group! It has been very rewarding watching them grow throughout the year. We will miss them greatly!" said Rhonda Rhodes, President of the Hancock Resource Center,

who founded the Hancock Youth Leadership Academy in 2012.

Brenna Labyak was the recipient of a \$250 scholarship that will be paid, once enrolled, to the college of her choice. Brenna attends Bay High School and plans

on attending Pearl River Community College in the fall. Through HYLA, she learned "a lot of valuable lessons including those regarding managing money." She also "enjoyed meeting new people from other schools and finding herself."

The Hancock Resource Center is the first and only county-wide youth leadership program in Hancock County, and is a program of the Hancock Resource Center. We have recently

announced selections for the Class of 2019. Moving forward, local community sponsorships are needed. Please consider sponsoring a session or making a general donation to support the ongoing operation of The Hancock Youth Leadership Academy. Invest in Hancock County's future by cultivating its next generation of leaders: visit www.hanockhrc.org or call 228-463-8887 to learn how.



American Legion Post 139
to host Steak Night This Friday, Dec. 7. | 5-8 p.m.
 Ribeye steak, choice of baked potato, twice baked potato, or fresh cut fries, salad/potato bar, and Texas toast, \$16; Or fish -- fried, blackened, or Old Bay -- with salad, choice of potatoes and toast, \$10.
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Bayside Fire Department's Christmas parade set this Saturday

SEA COAST ECHO

See Santa celebrate this Saturday at 7 p.m. with the Bayside Fire Department! Santa will begin by parading with his crew on the streets of Hancock County, near South Hancock Elementary School, throughout Bayside Park.

When the parade is over the fun won't stop!

Santa will pose for pictures after the parade with his favorite fans at the Bayside Fire station, while his special elves read aloud

many magical Christmas tales.

This is an event you dont want to miss!

Call 985-503-5457 for

more information on how you can be a part of this year's event.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Hancock County Board of Education Regular Monthly Meetings for 2019 are scheduled as follows and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

January 7, 2019
February 4, 2019
 - West Hancock Elementary School, 23350 Highway 43, Picayune, MS
March 14, 2019
 - South Hancock Elementary School, 6590 Lakeshore Rd., Bay St. Louis, MS
April 4, 2019
May 6, 2019
June 3, 2019
July 8, 2019
August 5, 2019
September 5, 2019
 - Hancock High School, 7084 Stennis Airport Dr., Kiln, MS
October 7, 2019
 - Hancock Middle School, 7070 Stennis Airport Dr., Kiln, MS
November 4, 2019
 - East Hancock Elementary School, 4221 Kiln Delisle Rd., Kiln, MS
December 2, 2019
 - Hancock North Central Elementary School, 6122 Cuevas Town Rd., Kiln, MS

Unless noted otherwise, the meetings will be held in the Board Meeting Room of the Office of the Superintendent of Education at 17304 Highway 603, Kiln, Mississippi.

For further information, including agenda matters, please visit www.hancockschools.net.

Primates are Us - Being self, Being others

Aping around the holidays

As the holidays approach, we often remind ourselves of family time and moments of good cheer, whether celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or another sacral rite. It is a time to focus on much needed empathy.

We cherish our holidays and traditions though they continually evolve. We think of Santa Claus wearing all-red—first from Coca-Cola ads; modern Christmas tree lighting originating from pagan tree worship, Roman Saturnalia rituals, and arboreal decorations in 17th-century Germany; or the curious coincidence of the celebrated date of the birth of Jesus so close to winter solstice. And Christmas gift exchange from the offerings of the three Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—now a major commercial enterprise.

Hanukkah is based upon the Maccabean Revolt (167-160 BC), when the Second Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated. As the Rabbis waited for more holy oil, they were able to light the Temple with one lamp lasting eight days—a full week more than available lamp oil allowed. Now, Hanukkah is celebrated with presents on each commemorative day, eating latkes, and playing dreidel.

These are origins of some of our most wonderful celebrations, some ancient and some “invented traditions,” as British scholars Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger explained, ever evolving.

We are social animals defining ourselves through rituals and relations to others. As an anthropologist, I try raising questions like: What makes us uniquely human? Or follow-up ones, such as how may we become more empathic to others?

Who we are has as much to do with what we inherit as it does with our social environments.

From analyzing the origins of our monotheistic religions, we know they arose in desert environments where other animals are scarce. Polytheistic religions are common where life is abundant. Our Judeo-Christian-Islamic religions developed in isolation from other non-human primates and thus also influenced our views about nature and it in relation to us.

Significant here is this interplay between the biological and the social--the exclusion of either in our analysis being a significant omission.

As the eminent cognitive anthropologist Maurice Bloch elucidates, we may think of interactive exchanges between people as the “transactional social,” in contrast to conscious and overt social symbols perpetuated by rituals and ritualistic behavior, which is the “transcendental social.” Our social life is so complex that the prefrontal



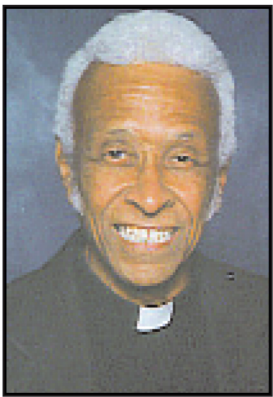
Guest Column

by **J.P. Linstroth**
Author of
Marching Against
Gender Practice:
Political
Imaginations in the
Basqueland

My wonderful 88-year- 9-month-old motor

Imagine any engine running nonstop day and night for 88 years. Human ingenuity has not figured out a way to make an engine capable of running nonstop and efficiently more than a small fraction of that. Our marvelous heart never rests, unless we count the slight hesitation between the systole-diastole of its beats. The size of one’s fist, our heart is the muscle from which all other muscles can learn.

Yes, our heart does splendid work for many decades, unless it is disabled by some congenital defect, partially incapacitated by an accident or disease, or at length worn down by the inexorable advance of old age. In my case, my great cardiac motor has been slowed by nearly 89 years of constant use and calcium buildup on the aorta valve cusps that causes aortic stenosis, a narrowing that keeps the valve from fully opening or closing. This condition reduces blood flow to the body and makes the heart work harder. Since overwork weakens the heart, my cardiologist, Dr. David Homan, asked, “Do you have chest pain, fatigue or shortness of breath?”



REFLECTIONS ON LIFE

by **Fr. Jerome Ledoux, SVD**

When I responded in the negative, he broached the subject of aortic valve replacement. “Your lack of symptoms indicates that you may not need an aortic valve replacement now, but a small procedure (stent) can forestall your need for a replacement in the near future. I recommend that you have such a procedure now.”

Dr. Homan scheduled me for a right heart (our heart has 4 sections) catheter to explore for blockage. If there was blockage, he would install a stent. He would also do a venogram to determine

whether there was a blockage in my leg veins, since there is leg swelling. If there was blockage, he would install a stent there also.

Ordered to abstain from all food and drink after Thursday midnight, to shower before my CIS procedure Friday morning, and to be prepared to stay in the hospital either 8 hours if no stents have been installed, or overnight if stents have been installed, I was left to get myself together for the occasion. No time was given me for my Friday appointment. “You will be called Thursday and given a time.”

CIS did call me on All Saints morning at 9:45. “We are asking you to report at the main desk of Opelousas General Hospital at 8:30 tomorrow (Friday) morning.”

Since Opelousas General Hospital and CIS do not have a commonality of communication, the main desk called me to verify all the particulars. Even with all that, when I arrived at the main desk Friday morning, the receptionist wanted to send me upstairs to CIS. I resisted until she called CIS and confirmed that I should

indeed be there at the main desk. At length, they got it all together.

Within minutes, I was donning a repulsive hospital gown. A congenial nurse came in to do vampire work. She tried my left arm, but failed to draw blood. After five minutes, she switched to my right arm. I have fairly sizable veins, but they kept rolling and dodging. So the rattled nurse switched back to my left arm after some minutes. Third verse, same as the first. Predictably, she switched back to my right arm and finally drew some precious blood. She breathed a sigh of relief. So did I.

Unaccustomed to taking any chemicals at all, “the medicine to help you relax” knocked me out cold. I never even knew that Dr. Homan had come and gone.

Through miscommunication, I thought that I would have surgery done on my aortic valve at 10:45 Tuesday morning, November 13. But, to my surprise, when I called Dr. Victor Tedesco’s office in Lafayette the morning

• **See REFLECTIONS/**Page 5B



• **See PRIMATES** Page 5A

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Rob Langrell, Editor and Publisher,
rlangrell@seacoastecho.com

Geoff Belcher, News Editor/Advertising Director,
gbelcher@seacoastecho.com

Ellis C. Cuevas, Publisher Emeritus,
ecuevas@seacoastecho.com

Cassandra Favre, Staff Writer,
dbremer@seacoastecho.com

Latonja Ervin, Advertising Representative
linda@seacoastecho.com

Jason Platz, Graphic Designer
jason@seacoastecho.com

Judy Ladner, Classifieds, Legals & Circulation
classifieds@seacoastecho.com

Rick Nelson, Production
seacoastecho@seacoastecho.com

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The Water Cycle

Water covers three-fourths of the earth's surface. There are many forms of water-ice, snow, rain, hail, dew, fog, and steam. The majority of this life source is sea water. It is from our oceans that most of our precipitation comes, although cleaned of its salt and minerals. So, how does this happen?

Water moves from land to clouds to land and back to the ocean in an on-going cycle. This cycle is known as the water cycle, or the hydrologic cycle. Let's take a closer look at it.

Every year about 95,000 cubic miles of water evaporates from the oceans and land. This water evaporates into the atmosphere, leaving impurities behind. This evaporated moisture moves across the earth in the form



Conservation Corner

by **James L. Cummins**

Wildlife Mississippi

of water vapor. A small portion of this water vapor is visible to us as fog, mist, or low-lying clouds. The water vapor then condenses, fills the clouds, and

then releases back to the earth in one of the various forms of water depending on region, climate, season, and topography.

When water falls to the ground, some of it soaks into the soil and the rest runs off. The water that is absorbed by the ground sustains plant and animal life in the soil. The rest finds its way into underground reservoirs where almost all of this water reenters the water cycle, which then starts over.

Humans can do little to alter this cycle, however we can manage and conserve water as it becomes available. Water management begins with soil management. Because our water supply comes as precipitation falling on the land, the fate of its fallen form depends on the condi-

tion of the soil it reaches.

A rainstorm on bare soil loosens soil particles and causes runoff, carrying the particles away. This is known as soil erosion. This repeated action ruins land for many uses and is the source of sediment that fills streams, pollutes water, and shortens the useful life of dams and reservoirs.

In areas where much of the land is paved or covered, runoff occurs up to 10 times faster than on unpaved lands. The water that falls here rapidly flows down storm drains and sewer systems carrying debris and other pollutants to nearby streams.

A human needs only a

• **See WATER** /Page 5A

Primates

Continued from Pg. 4A

cortex, the brain part responsible for controlling our sociality, most likely developed last in our evolution.

Enormous strides have been made in the neurosciences since the 1970s. Only in the last few years have we begun to understand the many and varied nuances of cognition and neurology associated with human conduct.

Some of the more interesting questions about human behavior in recent years have been raised by primatologists like Frans de Waal and Robert Sapolsky. While we are told we diverged on the evolutionary tree from other primates perhaps five million years ago, we are much like non-human primates, especially in our tendency to bond and share.

According to de Waal in his book, *Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society*, monkeys raised in isolation of other monkeys will develop severe mental and social impairments. Likewise, humans have the same needs. This was proven by the results of Romanian orphanages under

the communist Ceausescu regime. Under Ceausescu abortion was illegal, resulting in thousands of children being abandoned at state orphanages. By the early 1980s, the conditions in Romanian orphanages were deplorable with rampant abuse and child neglect. As de Waal describes, Romanian "...orphans were incapable of laughing or crying, spent the day rocking and clutching themselves in a fetal position...and did not even know how to play".

Our sociality is an important part of who we are and how we develop into adulthood and how we socialize with others. On the whole, humans have an enormous capacity for empathy as well—that is, imagining others' pain and feelings as our own.

Our empathy is so attuned as to be sometimes expressed with social altruism and not unique among animals as the late great Oxford evolutionary biologist, William Hamilton, proved quite well. Altruism here means that the benefit of the recipient of deeds outweighing the benefits of someone doing the deeds. Think about NYC firemen on 9/11 entering the World Trade Center Towers after the airplanes had collided with both buildings in order to save those who were stranded there

Indeed, the empathy involved in feeling another's pain is quite ingrained in human

cognition, even empathy for the pain of non-human animals. Yet, being altruistic and being empathic do not necessarily have to be interrelated as altruistic impulses may be carried out for group survival and not necessarily as feeling another's pain or preventing another's pain.

In the animal kingdom, according to Sapolsky, consoling a victim from aggression may elicit sympathy from other group members as happens among chimpanzees, crows, dogs, elephants, ravens, and wolves.

In our neural wiring, the brain region known as the "anterior cingulate cortex," aside from activating from real pain, according to Sapolsky, is also triggered from abstract social and emotional suffering by anxieties, revulsion, social rejection, and shame. This is also where our empathic feelings emerge for others, elaborated in Sapolsky's recent book, *Behave: the Biology of Humans at Our Best and Our Worst*.

Feeling empathy is much easier among those we consider to be "in-group" people, those most familiar to us and who we identify with, and much less so for strangers. Because it is the anterior cingulate cortex which elicits empathy, its anatomical position also indicates its long evolutionary history. Empathic brain pathways also pass through the insula and

amygdala, resonating with emotions from others' facial and bodily expressions and familiar voices.

Surprisingly, as Sapolsky argues, empathy is most often also tied to "self-interest" as dopamine is released in the brain and we feel good about giving to others. Therefore, our chemical reward systems are activated when we are voluntarily giving to others and are not asked to do so.

Charles Dickens's novella, *A Christmas Carol* (1843), plays upon our empathic sensibilities for the less fortunate, a morality tale of not only inherent inequalities in capitalism but also the psychological underpinnings about the unease in allowing others' suffering.

And so, just as the main character, Ebenezer Scrooge, found redemption and was transformed into a more sympathetic person, we too might learn to become more empathic toward others, especially the less fortunate, in this holiday season but also, if we are to evolve, year-round.

As empathy is more of a natural proclivity for helping family and friends, we may try moving beyond our centers of comfort by embracing strangers in need and making the world a better place. 'Tis the season.

200

Continued from Pg. 1A

BSL Red Cross during World War I and creator of the Hancock County Library System, presented

by Beverly Frater;

- Mayor Charles Traub, BSL Mayor during the Great Depression, portrayed by Roth;
- Renowned Midwife Carmen E. Moret-Labat, presented by Connie Roth, filling in for Mary Labat, Moret-Labat's grand-daughter; and
- Leo Seal, Jr., civic leader, banker and philanthropist, presented by Dr. Jim Keating.

Ron Thorp, in character as Shields, said he was "humbled that the state legislature has chosen to name this town after me," and joked that he was glad his

name would be remembered forever because the town would always be known as Shieldsborough.

Also at Saturday's event, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral John A. Okon spoke about the Navy's history on the Coast and the Battle of New Orleans and the Battle of Bay St. Louis. Okon said the brave citizens of Bay St. Louis had been instrumental in delaying the British long enough for then-Gen. Andrew Jackson to gather enough military strength and prepare battlements to win the Battle of New Orleans.

Present-day Mayor Mike Favre read a resolution commemorating the bicentennial, and the historical society dedicated a new Old Shieldsborough historical marker and introduced a time capsule that is scheduled to be opened in exactly 50 years.



Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher
Bay St. Louis Bicentennial Committee Director Chris Roth speaks to a capacity crowd at the Hancock County Historical Society.

Water

Continued from Pg. 4A

little over a gallon of water a day in order to fill his or

her basic needs. Currently, however, we use close to 1,600 gallons each day to supply our needs and comforts which include cooling purposes, lawn maintenance and beautification, recreational endeavors, and industrial supply.

The demand for water continues to rise as the population increases. This is precisely why quality management of precipitation is so vitally important.

Reflections

Continued from Pg. 4A

before to learn whether I had to fast, etc. in preparation for surgery, I heard the surprising words from the lips of the receptionist, "You don't have to do anything. This will be only a consultation with Dr. Tedesco to discuss X-ray artery photos and schedule a date for surgery."

Ushered into a large office room on November 13, I warned Minnie Finks and Floyd and Evadell Ware that Dr. Tedesco would give us the pros and cons of heart surgery, then invite me to make the call. When Dr. Tedesco entered I began to fire Italian at him. I guessed correctly. Of

Italian descent, although Tedesco is the Italian word for German, we threw some rudimentary Italian back and forth at each other.

Getting down to business, he said that he had studied the artery X-ray photos.

In the left side of the heart, the left anterior descending artery (LAD), aka the widow maker, supplies with blood the entire front wall of the heart and much of the side wall. A medium or total blockage of the beginning of the LAD can be a widow maker. The main artery supplies blood to the LAD and the left circumflex. A major blockage there is the mother of all widow makers, warranting timely double bypass surgery.

Weighing my two blockages, Dr. Tedesco and I scheduled surgery for December 12.



TO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU.
FOR ALL OF THE LOVE AND
SUPPORT YOU GAVE FOLLOWING
THE PASSING OF OUR MOTHER.
ALL OF YOUR CALLS, CARDS,
FLOWERS, FOOD AND PRAYERS
PROVIDED US WITH STRENGTH TO
GET THROUGH A VERY DIFFICULT
TIME.

THERE ARE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS
THE DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE
LOVE SHOWN TO MOM OVER THE
YEARS, BY SO MANY.
THE JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF HER
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HEARTS. TO "THE BAY" WE THANK
YOU!

The Family of Marie Mosley





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Obituaries

**BROTHER JOSEPH ANTHONY DONOVAN, S.C.
JOSEPH "JOE" VINCENT GAMBINO
WARREN CHARLES (MOOSE) MONNIN, JR.
TYRONE "TOBY" WHAVERS**

BROTHER JOSEPH ANTHONY DONOVAN, S.C.

Brother Joseph Anthony Donovan, S.C., 82, a resident of Mobile, Alabama, since 2006, died at Sacred Heart Residence on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2018, at 2:30 a.m. Brother Joseph, son of the late Mary Hosty and John Joseph Donovan, was a native of Brooklyn, New York. He joined the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in September 1950 and did both his pre-novitiate and novitiate formation in Metuchen, New Jersey, making his first vows on another Feast of our Lady, the Assumption, August 15, 1955. In 1958, Brother Joseph earned a bachelor's degree in English and social studies from Spring Hill College, and he went on to earn a master's in psychology and guidance from Fordham University in 1972.



Brother Joseph taught for the first three years of his professional career at Catholic Boys Home in Mobile, 1958 – 1961, and then for two more years at St. Aloysius in New Orleans. He made his mark at Saint Stanislaus College in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, forming young boys into "Men of Character," as a teacher, prefect, and assistant principal for 43 years. He retired from active ministry after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and moved to Mobile in 2006 to serve as director of the local Brothers' community and to assist with maintenance at Sacred Heart Residence, where he ultimately passed into eternal life.

Brother Joseph was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, John "Jack" Donovan, Jr. He is survived by his sister, Mrs. Mary Margaret Dymeck, his sister-in-law, Mrs. Philomae Donovan, Jr., and two nephews.

Since Brother Joseph donated his body to science, there will be no funeral Mass. A memorial Mass will take place on Tuesday, December 11, at Our Lady of the Gulf Church (228 South Beach Blvd, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi) at 2:00 PM. A reception will follow in the SSC College Café.

Donations in memory of Brother Joseph may be sent to the SSC Progression Corporation (304 South Beach Blvd., Bay St. Louis, MS. 39520) or to the Brothers of the Sacred Heart Foundation (4600 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122).

JOSEPH "JOE" VINCENT GAMBINO

Joseph "Joe" Vincent Gambino, 63, of Kiln, MS, passed away Friday, December 7, 2018 in Columbus, MS.

Joe was a native of New Orleans and has been a life-long resident of Waveland and the Kiln. He graduated from Bay High School. He formerly worked for the City of Waveland and retired from Coast Electric.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Anthony and Catherine Gambino; his sister, Marie Gambino; and his brothers, Henry Villere, Tony Gambino, Salvatore Gambino and J. A. Gambino.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Angela Shiyou Gambino; his daughters, Brianna Gambino Parks (Joseph Parks) and Jenna Gambino (Dakota Jordan); his grandchildren, Brooklyn Stockstill and Isabella Stockstill; his sisters, Alice Balser (Lloyd) and Girolima Manganello;

his nieces, nephews & other loving family members; and his beloved pets, Toby and Mia.

Visitation will be held Monday, December 10th from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at RIEMANN FAMILY FUNERAL HOME, 9113 Kiln Delisle Road, Pass Christian.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 11th at 2:00 p.m. at St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church, White Cypress, where friends may visit one hour prior.

Burial will follow at Standard Sandhill Cemetery. The online guestbook may be viewed and condolences & photos shared at www.riemannfamily.com



WARREN CHARLES (MOOSE) MONNIN, JR.

Warren Charles (Moose) Monnin, Jr., passed away Thursday, November 22, 2018 in Pass Christian. Warren never met a stranger, enjoyed wade fishing, and took up oil painting in his later years. He was retired from the Louisiana Coca Cola Company. He was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather and a friend to many.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Warren and Beverly Monnin, Sr. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Beverly Williams Monnin of Bay St. Louis;



his daughter, Sherida Monnin Massa (Scott) of Pass Christian; son, Keith Smith of Pass Christian, step-daughter, Gina Parrillo Wasserleben (Robert) of Mobile, AL; four grandchildren, Kenneth Micah Allen, Aaron Allen, Stephanie Allen Lee (Justin) and Shelby Parrillo; five great-grandchildren, Grayson and Carson Allen, Aaron Allen

Jr, Korbin and Kayleigh Patterson and numerous nieces and nephews. He is also survived by three sisters, Mary Ann Monnin Maxfield (Steve), Faye Monnin Johnson (Jimmy), Norma Monnin Davis (Barry).

The Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 10 A.M. at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Lower Bay Road, Clermont Harbor, MS.

Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home, 15th Street, Gulfport, is in charge of arrangements. View and sign register book at www.bradfordokeefe.com

TYRONE "TOBY" WHAVERS

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, at 10 a.m. at St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis for Tyrone "Toby" Whavers, 56, of Waveland, who died on Dec. 4 in Bay St. Louis.

Father Sebastian Myladyil will officiate at the service. Burial will follow in the Waveland Cemetery, under the direction of Baylous Funeral Home.

Mr. Whavers was a member of Retro-

Fit, the Krewe of Real People Next Generation, Together We'll Overcome, Bay Bandits, and Red Machine.

Survivors include Lita (Odessa) Benoit, mother; Cyril Lang, son; Vincent Lang, son; Sheila Lang, lifelong devoted friend; sisters Michelle Hawkins, Dina Benoit, Zina Day, Monica King, Chevette Singleton, Chevelle Benoit and Bobbie Saucier; and brothers Dwayne Benoit, Dana Benoit and James (Marie) Singleton.

Visitation will be Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, from 9-10 a.m.

Julia

Continued from Pg. 1A

Tracie Morgan and her fiance Daniel Cohen are raising Julia and her twin brother Edwin.

About two years ago, the siblings' father passed away and in October 2017, their mother suddenly passed away, Tracie said.

"Daniel was their father's cousin and we were asked if we'd like to have guardianship," Tracie said. "We didn't want them going into the system."

According to witnesses, Tracie said, Julia was thrown into the air. She suffered brain injuries, bruising of the lungs, vertebrae damage, and a broken left femur and tibia, Tracie

said. Since the accident, Julia has undergone several surgeries, which included the removal of a portion of her skull to allow healing, Tracie said.

"Doctors don't really have a prognosis yet," she said. "The brain injury is still really hard to pinpoint at this point."

Julia is a student at Pass Christian High School and plays saxophone in the band, Tracie said.

"She has several friends in band," she said. "She is just a sweet, soft-spoken, and happy person."

Tracie said that the amount of "love and prayers has been outstanding."

"It's amazing," she said. "The superintendent, a school board member and the principal were all in the emergency room with us. They've been in touch with

me to check on her, including all of her friends and several parents. The police department has been wonderful and so many others have reached out to help."

In an effort to help offset Julia's medical expenses, the family has established a GoFundMe account at <https://www.gofundme.com/Julias-Angels?fbclid=IwAR1S545OdMti38AvYIRNtSrBp46l5uWVwNXxf1wcIMvCCpz8rdXBRQ-qvMA>.

The family is also providing updates on Julia's condition via the Facebook page Prayers for Julia Usprich Teenager Hit and Run Victim Pas Christian.

Those who do not wish to donate through GoFundMe may contact the family via the Facebook page, Tracie said.

Garden

Continued from Pg. 1A

said.

"I got the sculptures in China and I wanted to be close to them," Webb said.

David said the addition of items to the courtyard will be beneficial to not only the residents, but also the staff.

"It will give the residents a place to go enjoy the weather and be safe," Davis said. "I also thought it would be a nice place for people that work here to

have a bit of lunch."

Davis said the Dunbar Village council is requesting donations from the community in the form of: Outdoor chairs, benches, tables, and plants.

Davis said people can also make monetary donations to contribute the beautification efforts in the courtyard.

"We're working hard on it and will take anything anyone wants to give," Davis said. "We want the courtyard to be a place to relax and be a pleasure for the residents."

Christmas Events

December 13

• A Natural Christmas is scheduled for 6 p.m. at East Hancock County Library, located 4545 Shepherd Square, Diamondhead. Santa Claus and refreshments.

• Dinner with Santa in Diamondhead is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. at the Diamondhead Country Club.

December 15

• Christmas Live Nativity Re-enactment. Performed by MAP; hosted by the Bay St. Louis Little Theatre on the Depot grounds in Bay St. Louis. Event begins at 7p.m.

Lakeshore Baptist Church invites everyone to their Annual Community Christmas Hymn Singing, Saturday December 15, at 5:30 pm. The evening of traditional Christmas hymns joins voices of all ages for this seasonal celebration. A refreshment reception, at the Mercy House, will follow the event. Lakeshore Baptist Church is located at 6028 Lakeshore Road, Bay St. Louis, MS, 39520. For more information about the church, visit their website at lakeshorebaptist.net.

Christmas Memories



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05/28/43 - 12/11/16

THOSE WE LOVE DON'T GO AWAY
THEY WALK BESIDE US EVERY DAY
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Pair

Continued from Pg. 1A

said Helsel's cause of death was blunt force trauma.

After reviewing surveillance video of the incident, police released photos of a man and woman they wanted to question, who have now been identified.

However, police had not yet released their names to the public at press time Tuesday.

Helsel was a U.S. Navy veteran and former Seabee at the Naval Construction Battalion in Gulfport.

Anyone who has information regarding this incident or any criminal activity should contact the Biloxi Police Department at (228) 392-0641, the

Biloxi Criminal Investigations Division at (228) 435-6112, the Biloxi Criminal Intelligence Unit at ciu@biloxi.ms.us, or Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers at (877) 787-5898.

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Area soccer players earn MAC All-Star honors

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
STAFF WRITER

The Mississippi Association of Coaches recently released the rosters for the

2019 MAC North/South All-Stars in soccer. The games will be played on Saturday, February 16th at Brandon High School. The girls game will be played at 12 noon with the boys game following at 2pm.

Marion Pohl, a senior at Bay High School, was the only area player chosen for the South girls roster.

Pohl is a five-year letter winner in varsity soccer at Bay High. The South squad will be coached by Bill

Hood and Joshua Cavanaugh of Florence High School.

The area has three area players selected for the South boys squad.

Stephen Bonck and Kade Wittman, both of St.

Stanislaus College, and John Bowman of Bay High were named to the team.

Both Bonck and Wittman helped lead the Rock-a-chaws to the Class 4A state title last season while Bowman helped lead

the Tigers to the Class 4A state title game two seasons ago.

The South boys squad will be coached by Henrik Madsen and Patrick Wadsworth of Gulfport High School.

SSC honors cross country & swimming student-athletes

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, November 3rd Saint Stanislaus College presented team awards to the varsity and junior high cross country team.

In addition to the certificates of participation, varsity letters and certificates of academic excellence achieved during the competitive season, SSC presented special team awards.

In varsity cross country, Josh Elkins earned the Hardest Worker Award while Keegan Leverett merited the Most Valuable Runner Award.

The Most Improved Runner Award was presented to Reed Fairley and the Coach's Award was earned by Alex

Koons.

The Best Teammate Award was merited by Landry Lemoine and Kyle Capo was presented the Mr. Rock-a-chaw Award.

Senior awards were presented to Koons, Lemoine and Ethan Theobald.

Lemoine, Koons and Capo all earned Captain Awards while All-Region 8-4A honors were merited by Lemoine, Leverett, Koons and Capo.

In junior high cross country, the Hardest Worker Award was presented to Jaden Talbot. The Most Improved Runner Award was merited by Cameron Gremilion and the Most Valuable Runner Award was earned by Edward Dezendorf. The Mr. Rock-a-chaw Award was presented to Reese Cooper.

On Wednesday, November 14th

Saint Stanislaus College presented team awards to the swim team.

Senior awards were presented to Peyton Cabell, Alexander Fuller, Alden Macomber, Corban O'Bannon, Caden Peranich and John Prikasky.

The Spirit Award was merited by Connor Macomber and the Most Improved Swimmer Award was earned by Mark Ray.

The Most Valuable Swimmer Award was presented to Alden Macomber and the Mr. Rock-a-chaw Award was merited by Peyton Cabell.

Caden Peranich earned the Coach's Award while Corban O'Bannon earned the Brother Albert Ledet Memorial Award.

Bay splits with West Harrison, Rocks fall to Moss Point

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
STAFF WRITER

The Bay High Tigers split a pair of games with West Harrison on Friday evening. The Tigers (5-3, 1-0) nipped the West Harrison Hurricanes 54-53

after the Lady Tigers were beaten by the Lady Hurricanes. Game details were not available.

The St. Stanislaus Rock-a-chaws (2-9, 0-1) fell on the road against the Moss Point Tigers 54-26.

The Pass Christian Pirates (2-10, 0-1) topped d'Iberville 71-61 on Friday

evening but fell to North Forrest 52-48 on Saturday.

The Lady Pirates (11-0) doubled up the Lady Warriors on Friday 52-24.

Hancock and OLA did not play on Friday evening.

In upcoming action, the Tigers travel to SSC for a cross-town matchup on Friday evening while the

Lady Tigers have the night off. The Crescents do not play again until January 11th.

The Hancock Hawks host Ocean Springs on Friday evening while the Pirates travel to St. Martin on Friday evening. See you at the games!

Bay sweeps Pass High in soccer

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
STAFF WRITER

It has been quite some time since the Bay High Tigers have swept the Pass Christian Pirates in soccer, but it happened on Friday evening and by the same score, nonetheless.

Bay High hosted the Pirates which was the division opener for the visitor.

In the girls game, the Lady Tigers (7-4, 3-0) and the Lady Pirates (1-3-4, 0-1) battled to a scoreless tie in the first half.

With roughly 7:30 left to play in regulation Marion Pohl scored on a free kick to make the difference in the game.

Bay High head coach Colby Adam commented, "We had some opportunities in the first half but we were not able to finish. In the second half, we kept up the pressure and we got a free kick for Marion Pohl.

She converted on the kick. Danae Fowler played well in goal for us and made the stops when she was called on and got the shutout.

This is a big win for us and we control our own destiny going forward."

In the boys game, the Pirates (6-1-1, 0-1) came in undefeated and the Tigers (7-6-1, 3-0) were looking to dethrone the Pirates.

The two squads also battled to a 0-0 score at intermission. Each team had chances but could not get clean shots off.

With 23:50 left in the regulation, Douglas Rhodes finished off a rebound shot to make the final score.

With 4:05 remaining, Bay High goal keeper Trey Bordelon made a beautiful save on a free kick by the Pirates that quite possibly could have sent the game into extra time.

Bay High head coach Kelly Ross stated, "Pass Christian has a very good midfield and we knew that we wanted to make them work to push the ball. We had a couple of chances in the first half but could not convert.

In the second half, Douglas Rhodes was in the right place at the right time and finished the opportunity."

The Tigers dethroned the Pirates and have set themselves up for the annual tilt with St. Stanislaus on Thursday, December 20th.

The win over Pass



Photo by Richard Gleber

Bay High's Marion Pohl (#2) takes the game-winning shot on a free kick for the Lady Tigers. Bay High won the game 1-0 over Pass Christian on Friday evening.

Christian, however, gives Bay High a sweep of the Pirates in a single night for the first time in recent memory.

In other action, the Hancock Hawks (4-5-1, 0-1) dropped their game with Gulfport 3-0 on Friday. The Lady Hawks (6-3-1, 0-1) also fell to Gulfport 5-0.

OLA (3-4-1, 1-1) defeated St. Patrick on Friday 1-0 in division action.

Allie Gant scored the lone goal for the Crescents

while Paige Palazzo recorded the shutout in goal.

In upcoming action, the Tigers travel to Stone on Friday, December 14th while Hancock hosts East Central on Saturday.

The Pirates travel to SSac on Friday and OLA will host Pass Christian on Friday.

See you at the games!

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Local cheerleader performs in Thanksgiving Day Parade through Disney's Magic Kingdom

SEA COAST ECHO

Madison Delger, from Hancock Middle School in Kiln, Mississippi, was nominated by her coach, Leah Dewberry, during a Varsity Spirit camp in June of this year to try out for a position on the All-American squad.

Madison was ultimately selected to the squad and was then invited to perform in a parade with a select group of cheerleaders and dancers who were also chosen as All-Americans during camps across the country. All-Americans are selected based on either superior cheerleading or dance skills by Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA), Universal Dance Association (UDA), National Cheerleaders Association (NCA), or National Dance Alliance (NDA).

Madison was one of more than 840 elementary, junior high and high school cheerleaders and dancers from across the country that represented Varsity Spirit in the 2018 Thanksgiving Tour at the Walt Disney World® Resort in Orlando, Florida in a one-of-a-kind pre-parade performance through Disney's Magic Kingdom® Park on Thanksgiving Day. Besides



Madison Delger

enjoying a sunny trip to Orlando, Madison had the opportunity to meet cheerleaders and dancers from across the nation and enjoyed a magical holiday season at Walt Disney World® Resort parks. Only the top 10% of the cheerleaders and dancers from Varsity Spirit camps earn the chance to march in a holiday parade of this caliber.

Madison is the daughter of Peter and Dara Delger of Diamondhead, Mississippi.



Hancock Chamber Launches New Customer Development Program

SEA COAST ECHO

During 2019, the Hancock Chamber will introduce a new customer development program to promote member restaurants and connect members to grow their businesses. Each month, a different Hancock Chamber member restaurant will be featured during the Chamber Power Hour Lunch Break.

These meetings will be on the second Tuesday of each month from noon - 1pm at a different restaurant. As a member in good standing, restaurants will be included in a drawing to determine which ones will be featured during 2019. If a restaurant is not selected this year, they will be among the first to be included the following year.

The drawing to determine the schedule of restaurants will be on Thursday, December 13th during the Chamber After Hours at

Bjoubel at 126 Main in Bay St. Louis. This promotion is being chaired by Starr Chapman of Rum Kitchen.

"We think this is a great opportunity to promote our member restaurants and provide a relationship building opportunity for our members to grow their businesses too," said Chapman.

While some restaurants are not open on Tuesdays and some do not serve lunch, for this promotion they may decide to open to take advantage of the promotion. If a restaurant is one of the 12 selected in the lottery and they choose to not participate in the promotion, the next restaurant on the list will be moved in to that spot.

For information, call Starr Chapman, Rum Kitchen, 504-405-8628, starrchapman7@gmail.com.

To join the Chamber go to hancockchamber.org.

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THE SEA COAST ECHO COMMUNITY

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018

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Hancock High School's Spotlight Students

SEA COAST ECHO

Hancock High School recognizes Spotlight Students.

August

Freshman Spotlight: Makenna Ladner is the daughter of Tara and David Ladner. She is a member of the basketball team. Makenna plans to go to college someday. She is most inspired by Mr. Richard Davis because he inspires her to continue to push herself in school no matter how hard it is.

Sophomore Spotlight: Kyle Shippey is the son of Hope and Michael Shippey. He is a member of the football team. After high school, Kyle plans to go to college and get a good job. He is most inspired by Mrs. Sarah Dosda because she doesn't give excuses and comes from the real world.

Junior Spotlight: Raegan Alexander is the daughter of April Matherne Cash and Mike Cash. She is a member of SADD club. In the future, Raegan plans to become a nurse. She is most inspired by Ms. Amanda Ring who teaches her a lot of things and helps her with school work in all classes.

Senior Spotlight: Adrienne Wilson is the daughter of Monica Haydel. She is a member of Beta Club and serves as track team manager. After high school, Adrienne hopes to attend University of South Alabama to become a physician's assistant. She is most inspired by Ms. Tabitha Mitchell who has been there for her through so much and greatly inspired her life, for which she will be forever grateful.

September

Freshman Spotlight: Katelynn Altese is the daughter of Amy and Chris Altese. She is a member of First Priority, Student Council, the HHS golf team, competitive golf, and studio dance. In the future, Katelynn plans to go to college where she will play collegiate golf and study the field of medicine. She notes that the entire faculty and staff is amazing at HHS!

Sophomore Spotlight: DeAnn Ladner is the daughter of Melissa and Harry Ladner. She is a member of First Priority, Student Council, FCCLA, and the volleyball team. In the future, she plans to go to Mississippi State University where she will major in education. DeAnn recognizes Ms. Tabitha Mitchell who inspires her to do her best, makes her laugh, and provides support when needed.

Junior Spotlight: Iris Barrios is the daughter of Christina Vidales and Jose Barrios. She is a member of National Honor Society, Beta Club, and National Technical Honor Society. After high school, Iris plans to go to Ole Miss where she will study physical therapy. She is most inspired by Mr. Benji McLain because he pushes her to improve, helps her in music as well as life, and helps her be more confident and open.

Senior Spotlight: Deete Levron is the daughter of Shannon and Aude Levron. In the future, she hopes to pursue nursing at PRCC. She is inspired by Ms. Sarah Bailey because she goes the extra mile for her students and brightens her day even on the worst day.

October

Freshman Spotlight: Emily Fortenberry is the daughter of Sally and Charles Fortenberry. In the future, Emily plans to go to college for cosmetology. She is most inspired by Mrs. Natasha Durand because she pushes Emily to do better.

Sophomore Spotlight: David Barney is the son of Barry Barney. He plans to pursue a degree in professional football after high school. David is most inspired by Ms. Jana Montgomery because she had sickness and showed great strength.

Junior Spotlight: Sebastian Fausett is the son of Caroline and Todd Fausett. He is a member of National Honor Society, French Club, football team, track team, and soccer team. After high school, Sebastian plans to go to Mississippi State where he will pursue medical school.



Makenna Ladner



Adrienne Wilson



Kyle Shippey



Raegan Alexander



Katelynn Altese



DeAnn Ladner



Iris Barrios



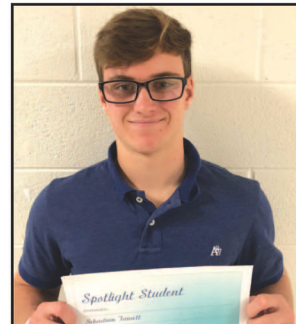
Deete Levron



Emily Fortenberry



David Barney



Sebastian Fausett



Austin Lizana



Adrian Palomino



Samantha Fauchaux



Olivia Palisi



Mckenzie Davis

November

Freshman Spotlight: Adrian Palomino is the son of Ginny and Alex Caballero. In the future, he hopes to work hard enough to go to college and get a perfect job. Adrian says all of his teachers inspire him because they value hard work.

Sophomore Spotlight: Samantha Fauchaux is the daughter of Bridgette Fauchaux. She is a vice president of HHS Against Cancer as well as a member of French Club all while working at Little

Caesars. After high school, Samantha plans to work as a child welfare social worker. She is more inspired by Mrs. Sherri Moak who inspires her to speak her mind and stand for what she believes in.

Junior Spotlight: Olivia Palisi is the daughter of Dominic Palisi and Susan Palisi. She is a member of the soccer team. After high school, Olivia plans to go to medical school and study pediatrics. She is most inspired by Mrs. Elizabeth Grafe because she always stays positive and calm while being

patient.

Senior Spotlight: Mckenzie Davis is the daughter of Shelly and Jerry Davis. She is a member of First Priority and Skills USA. After high school, Mckenzie plans to attend PRCC and William Carey to study history and become a teacher. She is inspired by Mrs. Dana Michel who inspired her passion for history and achievement.

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The Sea Coast Echo

OLA delegates attend youth legislature session in Jackson

SEA COAST ECHO

Jackson, MS - Our Lady Academy (OLA) Youth Legislature delegation represented by Emily Green, Avery Kearney, Gabbie Mikhail, Abby Randall, Cali Reinhart, Savannah Templeton, and Gracie Saucier attended the conference held at the State Capital to experience the political process of signing a bill into law.

OLA was recognized for its outstanding achievements and was therefore granted the status of Premier Delegation. Avery Kearney was elected as Speaker Pro Temp; Emily Green was appointed Assistant Clerk of the House; and Gracie Saucier was selected as Assistant House Manager. The Mississippi Youth Legislature conducts a mock legislative session wherein the students present their bills in hopes of having it signed into

law.

As in the official Legislature process, the bill must be passed by both chambers of congress, before making it to the Youth Governor's desk.

Green and Templeton wrote a bill requiring the Accelerated Reading program be mandatory throughout schools in Mississippi. Kearney, Saucier and Mikhail submitted a bill requiring homeschool parents to have a Bachelor of Science degree.

Randall and Reinhart submitted a bill lowering profits for diabetic medicine and glucose monitors.

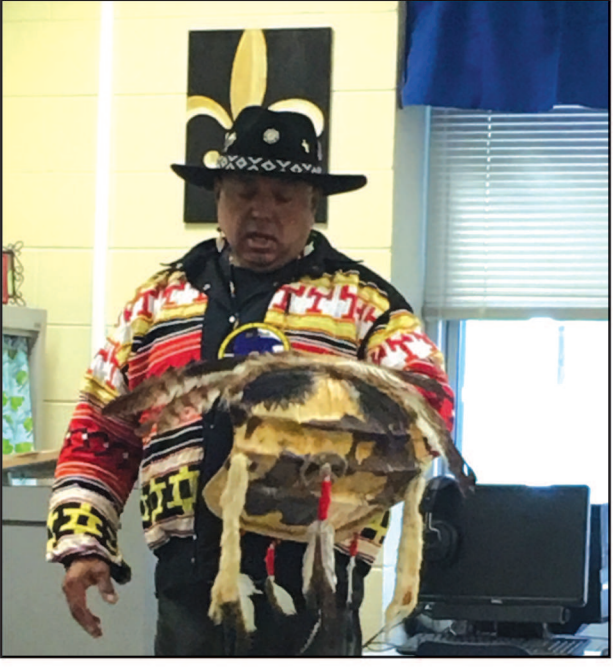
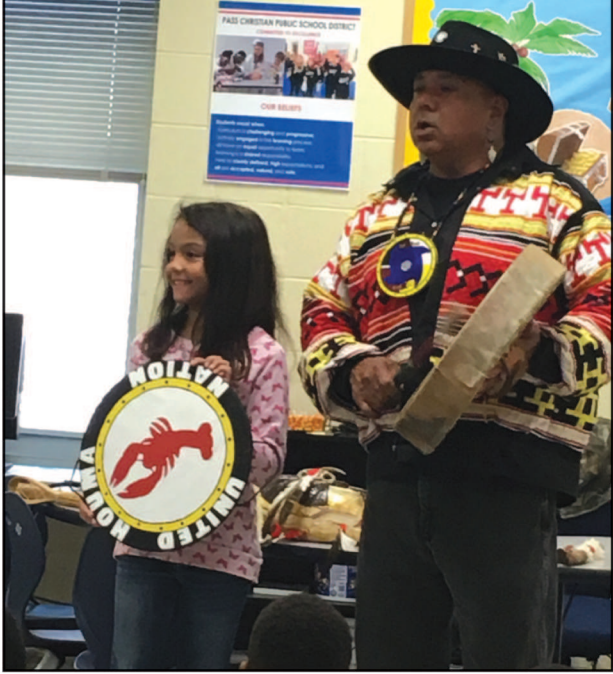
OLA History Teacher and Youth Legislative Advisor, Elise Cuevas commented, "Another Youth Legislature and another stellar delegation. OLA girls did not disappoint and it is always exciting when they realize what I emphasize in class. PARTICIPATION IS THE HALL-MARK OF DEMOCRACY."



PCES Hosts Principal Chief Creppel

SEA COAST ECHO

Last week, second graders at Pass Christian Elementary School welcomed Principal Chief Creppel of the United Houma Nation based out of Houma, Louisiana. PCES second graders have been studying Native American tribes and cultures and were very excited to learn even more about the rich heritage of the Houma Choctaw from Chief Creppel. Chief Creppel showed the students many different hand-made toys such as moss dolls, dugout canoes, wood carvings of a turtle and bear, and a toy top. He shared with the students how he was elected chief of his nation of 17,000. The students were thrilled to hear songs as Chief Creppel played his drum. This was an awesome opportunity for our students to have a visual and hands-on learning experience.



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Lazy Magnolia to match donations up to \$10,000 to support CASA

SEA COAST ECHO

Lazy Magnolia Brewery announces to support CASA of Hancock County by doing an end of the year match. Lazy Magnolia will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000 from the community to support the abused and neglected children in their backyard, Hancock County. This campaign will kick off at their 2nd Annual Tacky Christmas Sweater party being held Friday, December 14th at the brewery. The campaign will run until December 28th. \$25 entry includes: OPEN BAR, Appetizers, Fun Games and a Tacky Sweater Contest! Winner gets a PRIZE! "We believe in what CASA does for the children of our community and we can't think of a better way to support them at this time of the year," said Mark Henderson of Lazy Magnolia's commitment to match donations to CASA dollar-for-dollar up to an incredible \$10,000. Currently there are 183 children in foster care due to abuse or neglect in Hancock County. Instead of playing with neighbors and making happy family memories, they're attending court hearings, adjusting to new foster homes and transitioning to new schools. That's a heavy burden for a child to carry. With a court-appointed special

advocate (CASA) dedicated to their case, Hancock County's most vulnerable children have someone by their side, speaking up for their best interests. "We are extremely grateful for the folks at Lazy Magnolia Brewery and the generosity of our community who continue to stand up and step forward to help us advocate for these children in our community," says Natalie Guess, President of the Board, CASA Hancock County. "Every child deserves to thrive in a nurturing and loving family that provides them with a safe and permanent home." The matching gift opportunity will run until December 28th to help CASA continue to recruit, train and support volunteer advocates for foster care children in Hancock County. Make a gift online today at <http://casahancockcounty.org/donate-2/>

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The Community CALENDAR



December 12

• Harbor House Steamer, 3410 Yacht Club Circle Diamondhead, will host the third annual Barking on the Bay from 5:30 to 8 p.m. MS Gulf Coast Lost and Found Animals is once again teaming up with the Hancock County Animal Shelter for their 3rd Annual Fundraiser to benefit the Hancock County Animal Shelter. \$10 catfish plate with macaroni salad and baked beans - available to go too Complimentary glass of house wine or beer to the first 100 people donated by John Hall, Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty. Live music by Blake Werner and his Family Tradition Band! Silent auction raffle and 50/50. Purina dog and cat food donations gladly accepted. For more information 228-222-4645.

Bay St Louis Public Library from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. After a short meeting, we will be exchanging Christmas ornaments and have a potluck. Bring a friend and join us.

• The Hancock County 'Boys & Girls Club Torch Club will host a spaghetti dinner from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. with spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert, \$5 per plate. Please place your early by calling 228-467-9515.

December 14

• VFW Post 3253 in Bay St. Louis will host Steak Night, from 5-8 p.m. The menu will include 16 oz ribeye, baked potato and salad for a \$15 donation. \$1 dessert. Music by Bill Lee

December 15

• Christmas Live Nativity Re-enactment. Performed by MAP; hosted by the Bay St. Louis Little Theatre on the Depot grounds in Bay St. Louis. Event begins at 7p.m.

• The Navy Wives Club of America Honeybees Chapter 257 will host the 3rd Annual National Wreaths Across America Event at St. Joseph-Rotten Bayou Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. Volunteers will place live wreaths on the graves of more than 225 veterans interred at the cemetery. There will also be a ceremony featuring guest speakers, TAPS, 21-gun salute and a special guest who will perform during the ceremony.

• The Ernie Zimmerman Friends & Family Live Catch Tournament will take place on December 15th at 7AM at the Bay Marina! The entry fee is \$40, which includes a shirt AND a CCA Christmas Dinner Party ticket. Captain's Meeting will take place Dec 14th at 6pm. Over \$1500 in prizes will be awarded by raffle ticket drawing. You will receive 4 tickets for entering the tournament and 1 for each live trout accepted by GCRL. CCA Christmas Party will start at 2pm with dinner plates available for \$10 for those not entered in the tournament. The Bay Chapter Meeting that is usually held on Thursday will instead be held on Saturday, Dec 15 at 2 p.m.

• Lakeshore Baptist Church invites everyone to their Annual Community Christmas Hymn Singing, Saturday December 15, at 5:30 pm. The evening of traditional Christmas hymns joins voices of all ages for this seasonal celebration. A refreshment reception, at the Mercy House, will follow the event. Lakeshore Baptist Church is located at 6028 Lakeshore Road, Bay St. Louis, MS, 39520. For more information about the church, visit their website at lakeshorebaptist.net.

December 16

• Shoreline Park Baptist Church will host Breakfast with Santa at 8:30 a.m. at 10121 Kiln-Waveland Cutoff Rd., Bay St. Louis. Festivities start at 8:30 a.m. and include: Breakfast with Santa, photo-ops

available and Christmas story, 10:30 a.m. there will be a Christmas musical during the morning service.

December 17

• The Hancock County Board of Supervisors meets at 9 a.m. at the county annex building.

December 18

• Coffee with a Cop will be held at PJ's Coffee House from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

• The Bay St. Louis City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. at 598 Main St.

December 19

• Christmas Live Nativity Re-enactment. Performed by MAP; at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Event begins at 5:30 p.m.

• The Waveland Board of Mayor and Alderman meet at 6:30 p.m. at city hall on Coleman Avenue.

December 21

• The Hancock County Senior Citizens Center will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 21 through Jan. 1, 2019. The center will re-open at 8 a.m. on Jan. 2.

December 31

• Bourgeois Stieffel Ray Sons of the American Legion Squadron #77 of Waveland will host a New Year's Eve celebration fea-

turing Elvis impersonator Nick Perkins and professional country legends impersonator Dana Myers. Together they will perform on stage at the American Legion Hall, located at 503 Waveland Ave. Doors open at 7 p.m. Event starts at 8:30 p.m. and lasts until midnight. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at the American Legion on Tuesday and Thursday or by calling 228-467-2198. This is a BYOB event as well as bring your own snacks for your table. Soft drinks and beer will be available for purchase. Party favors will be distributed. Come ring in the

New Year with Nick and Dana and listen to some of the best country music legends such as Elvis, Conway Twitty, George Jones, Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Shania Twain and others. All proceeds support our veterans.

DISCLAIMER: EVENTS FEATURED ON THE CALENDAR PAGE ARE PRINTED AT NO CHARGE AND SPACE PERMITTING. PLEASE KEEP SUBMISSIONS LIMITED TO 100 WORDS OR LESS. SUBMISSIONS ARE LIMITED TO COMMUNITY, EDUCATIONAL, CHURCHES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR CALENDAR ENTRIES ELECTRONICALLY TO GBELCHER@SEACOASTECHO.COM.

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MAP Kids and BSLLT Live Nativity

SEA COAST ECHO

MAP Kids, in collaboration with the Bay St. Louis Little Theatre, is presenting the annual live re-enactment of the Nativity with narrative and songs to celebrate the Christmas season. Still needed are kids from K to 12 to participate. Rehearsals are Mondays and Thursdays,

6:30 pm, through December 13 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 5303 Diamondhead Circle, Diamondhead. Performances are Saturday, December 15, 7:00 pm at Bay St. Louis Depot Gazebo, and Wednesday, December 19, 5:30 pm at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Anyone interested in participating please contact Betty Patecek, 228-332-6183.



City of Bay St. Louis is hosting toy and food drive for King's Kitchen

SEA COAST ECHO

The City of Bay St. Louis is sponsoring a food and toy drive for The King's Kitchen to support their annual Christmas luncheon. Since their opening in November of 2012, The King's Kitchen has fed

approximately 156,000 meals in the Bay-Waveland community.

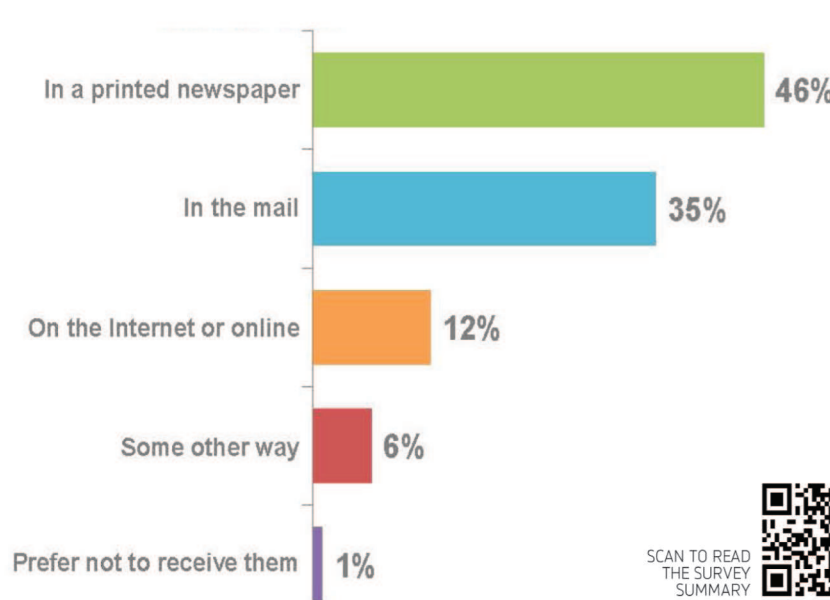
They continue to reach out to those in need on a daily basis. There are no restrictions on food donations. Needed toys are for children who are 4 - 10 years of age and toys do not need to be wrapped.

Donation deadline is Thursday, December 20th and all donations may be brought to City Hall, 688 Hwy 90, Bay St. Louis Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Community support is vital and very much appreciated!

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ferred method of receiving these notices is in a printed newspaper along with their associated websites.

According to a 2013 Advertising and Media Use Survey*, legal ads in printed newspapers have a much higher credibility than other media.

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VFW Post 2880 hosts Christmas Dinner

SEA COAST ECHO

VFW Post 2880 held it's annual Christmas Dinner 5 December 2018 at the Diamondhead Country Club. Commmander Jerry Peppenger opened the occasion with a welcome to the large audience and with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Several awards were presented. Former Quartermaster Doug Maxwell and former Service Officer Reid Walker were recognized for their outstanding service to the VFW and the community.

Kevin Allemand of Hancock County High School was presented with the 2018 Teacher of The Year Award. Amy Reeves, a student at Hancock Middle School was presented with the 2018 "Patriot Pen" award. She read her essay on Why I respect the flag to the audience. Shelby Lee a student at Hancock County High School was presented with the 2018 Voice of Democracy Award. She also read her essay on Why my vote Matters to the audience. Both young ladies received standing ovations.



Pictured above is Amy Reeves with family and VFW Post 2880 commander Jerry Peppenger(left) and Senior Vice commander Don Crosby(right). Amy was the recipient of the 2018 Patriot Pen Award for VFW Post 2880 of Diamondhead.

Dixieland celebrates 'Purina Feed Greatness'

SEA COAST ECHO

Kiln, MS – Dixieland, a Purina® Certified Expert Dealer, is celebrating their 2018 Purina® Feed Greatness® Days on Saturday, December 22nd at 21330

Highway 603, Kiln, MS. They are offering discounts on select Purina feed and they'll be raffling off a Purina-branded Orion® 65 qt. cooler as well. "We are proud to serve the residents of our community and thank them for their continued loyalty,"

Jessica Kiln, Owner. "We invite everyone to celebrate our Purina® Feed Greatness® Days!" Purina Animal Nutrition LLC (www.purinamills.com) is a national organization serving producers, animal owners and their families through more

than 4,700 local cooperatives, independent dealers and other large retailers throughout the United States. Driven to unlock the greatest potential in every animal, the company is an industry-leading innovator offering a valued portfolio of complete feeds,

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Walrod Steampunk Curiosities Art Reception at Pass Library

SEA COAST ECHO

Pass Christian Library is excited to host the world-renowned steampunk assemblage artist Dr. von Walrod for an art exhibition during the month of December with a costume gala reception on Thursday Dec. 20 at 5PM. The exhibition and reception are free to the public. The reception will include door prizes, food and drink,

and artist presentation. Dress to impress in steampunk, Victorian, and mad-science fashion - awards will be presented for best outfits and gadgets. The reception will include a silent auction and art lotto with charity proceeds to benefit Friends of the Library. Walrod is an award-winning Gulf Coast artist who creates powerful 3D assemblage art using rare, old artifacts – such as bro-

ken toasters. His secret lab & wandering mind are rumored to be somewhere in the deeper forests of Mississippi. His artwork blends science, myth, & imagination using vintage and antique objects. His odd yet dangerous art is highly coveted by inept governments, superheroes, election hackers, aliens, dictators, fake news reporters, and Heads-of-State with bigger buttons, among others...

For More Information:
• Facebook event: Walrod Steampunk Curiosities – Art Reception
• Instagram: WalrodArt
• Pintrest: WalrodArt
• Call: 228-452-4596
• Email: passchristianlibrary@gmail.com

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DeLisle Elementary School 4th graders lead the way to a brighter, more energy efficient future

SEA COAST ECHO

Through the Energy Efficiency Education Program hosted by Mississippi Power, students in fourth grade at DeLisle Elementary School learned the importance of energy conservation. Energy efficiency education expert, Tamera Proctor, discussed with students the value of energy efficiency and the steps that can be taken to reduce energy consumption at home. Each student who participated in the program received a home energy efficiency kit, which included: a LED bulb, a shower timer, a thermometer, and a motion activated night

light. For their participation in the program, Mississippi Power presented DeLisle Elementary with a \$250 grant which will be used to enhance educational experiences. Mississippi Power energy efficiency education expert, Tamera Proctor (right), presents 4th grade teacher, Ashley Patterson (left), with a check for \$250. After participating in the Mississippi Power Energy Efficiency Education Program, DeLisle Elementary School's 4th graders are eager to utilize their energy efficiency kits to reduce energy consumption in their own homes.

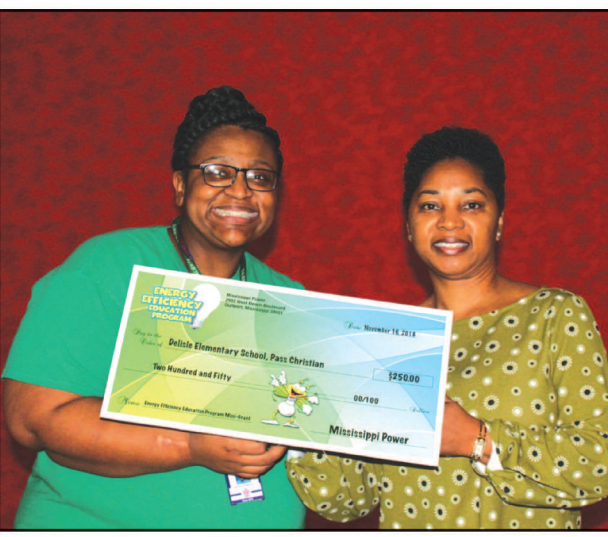
**community newspapers**

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When it comes to knowing what's happening locally, the community newspaper is the primary source, according to respondents in a nationwide survey. The community newspaper beats TV, radio and the internet as the No. 1 source for local news as well as local shopping and advertising information.



• See GRANT/Page 5B



**THE SEA COAST ECHO**
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2017 NNA Community Newspaper Readership Survey

Grant

Continued from Pg. 4B



Select, care well for Christmas poinsettias

**DR. GARY R. BACHMAN
MSU EXTENSION
SERVICE**

It's that time of year again for shopping, eating, delivery trucks and poinsettias. Yep—it's the Christmas season.

Now is a great time to get the best selection of poinsettias. They're plentiful in a wide variety of sizes and colors sure to fit into any holiday decorating scheme.

The range of available poinsettia colors is truly remarkable. Poinsettia is no longer just that red Christmas plant. We can purchase them in white, pink, maroon, speckled and marbled selections. This year, I noticed a resurgence in plants painted and dyed in totally nontraditional poinsettia colors.

I'm always amazed at the beautiful colors, but my favorite has to be the traditional red.

The colors we enjoy are not flowers but modified leaves called bracts. The true flowers are those little pea-like structures called cyathia.

Take your time when shopping for poinsettias. Don't just grab the first pretty plant you find.

Remember that not all poinsettias are the same, especially when they are displayed tightly packed on racks or benches. Look for plants that are compact with good branching. Don't be afraid to carefully pick plants out of the crowd and look at them.

But don't be rough, especially if the plants are really crowded. Poinsettia branches can easily break, and you know the old

adage, "You break it, you buy it."

Look for signs of stem and branch breakage before you purchase them; the sleeves that protect many poinsettias can hide these defects. I like to buy poinsettias that are not sleeved and then have a protective sleeve put on at the check-out counter.

Pay particular attention when removing these paper or plastic sleeves. Never try to slide the shipping sleeves off because this has the potential to damage the plant. Always tear or cut the sleeve off your plants.

If you're going to be on an all-day shopping trek, plan to buy your poinsettias last. Don't leave them in a cold or hot car all day.

Here are some care tips to help you keep your poinsettia looking good for the entire holiday season.

Poinsettias need at least six hours of indirect sunlight and comfortable room temperatures.

If you're comfortable, then the poinsettias will be happy. That poinsettia might look great by the front door when guests arrive, but the sudden temperature changes from drafts, either cold or warm, will cause the leaves and bracts to drop.

Poinsettias are sensitive to wet feet, and root rot sets in very quickly, so don't overwater. It's easy to tell if your plant needs water.

Either feel the top of the potting mix for dryness or pick the pot up to get a sense of the weight. Light pots need water.

To water, remove the decorative sleeve and set the pot in a pan of water in the kitchen sink. Lift it out of the water, and when it



Rows of red, green and multicolored poinsettias are lined up in rows in a greenhouse, with pots of poinsettias hanging from the bars overhead.

has finished draining, replace the decorative sleeve. I also like to use a saucer to protect my furniture from any moisture.

Despite the alarming information folks share on social media, poinsettias are not poisonous to our pets.

According to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control, eating poinsettia leaves will induce only GI tract irritation.

A more likely scenario would be you getting a skin rash or contact dermatitis from handling poinsettias, so always wash your hands after handling your poinsettia.



Small, pea-like, yellow structures are visible at the center of vivid red poinsettia leaves.

Research reveals that people are more absorbed and attentive when they read newspaper content.

No matter how **The Sea Coast Echo**® captures a reader's attention, we are remarkably successful at keeping it. An NRS survey says newspaper readers are more relaxed than TV viewers and radio listeners and less likely to be multi-screening. In fact, the 36 million who pick up a paper spend over an hour reading and don't multi-screen at all. **Nothing works like The Echo works.**



PRCC hosts Surgical Tech pinning ceremony



PRCC Public Relations Photo

Graduates of the surgical technology program at Pearl River Community College's Forrest County Center received their diplomas and pins during a ceremony on Dec. 6 at the multipurpose room on the Forrest County Center. They are from left: Front row – Naomi Burroughs of Lumberton, Mackenzie Brewer of Richton, Anna Wilks of Columbia, Shelby Armstrong of Poplarville, Clarissa Jones of Picayune and Nikki McGregor of Bay St. Louis. Back row - Instructor Lori Little, Jordan Evans of Perkinston, Jody Courtney of McLain, Alexis Smith of Richton, Lindsey Murphy of Carriere, Savannah Morea of Purvis, Taylor Chandler of Petal and Tammy Allhoff, program director.

Addiction Policy Forum Launches Statewide Resource to Address the Addiction Crisis in Mississippi

Residents Can Now Find Local Addiction Treatment Facilities and Healthcare Providers by County

SEA COAST ECHO

Jackson, MS, Dec. 11, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Addiction Policy Forum, a leading addiction nonprofit, has expanded its Addiction Resource Center (ARC) to include a database of treatment resources, facilities, and healthcare providers in Mississippi. The ARC offers two ways to find lifesaving help: an online portal and a free, confidential telehealth service. “Patients and families deserve a reliable list of substance use disorder services that they can trust when they’re seeking help during a crisis,” says Jessica Hulsey Nickel, Founder of Addiction Policy Forum. “The ARC database directs patients and their loved ones to reputable treatment resources, facilities and healthcare providers throughout Mississippi.”

The ARC includes a comprehensive, interactive website to help individuals and families struggling with addiction learn about substance use disorders and access critical resources. This platform dispels harmful myths about addiction by presenting the science behind the disease in easy-to-read formats, guiding concerned individuals through a self-assessment tool, helping to develop a proposed action plan and providing a database of local treatment providers. The ARC also includes a telehealth service staffed by licensed clinicians and counselors that provides callers with substance use disorder information, education on treatment options, and support. Mississippi residents can call the line at 1-833-301-HELP (4357), Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM CT.

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